

Darnell, and all the idle weedes that grow
In our sustaining Corne. A Centery send forth;
Search euery Acre in the high-growne field,
And bring him to our eye. What can mans wisdom
In the restoring his bereaued Sense; he that helps him,
Take all my outward worth.

Cent. There is meanes Madam:
Our foster Nurse of Nature, is repose,
The which he lackes: that to prouoke in him
Are many Simples operative, whose power
Will close the eye of Anguith.

Cord. All blest Secretes,
All you vnpublish'd Vertues of the earth
Spring with my teares; be aydant, and remediate
In the Goodmans desires: seeke, seeke for him,
Least his vngouern'd rage, dissolve the life
That wants the meanes to leade it.

Enter Messenger.

Mes. Newes Madam,
The Britishe Powres are marching hitherward.
Cor. 'Tis knowne before. Our preparation stands
In expectation of them. O deere Father,
It is thy businesse that I go about: Therefore great France
My mourning, and importun'd teares hath pittied:
No blowne Ambition doth our Armes incite,
But loue, deere loue, and our ag'd Fathers Rite:
Soone may I heare, and see him.

Exeunt.

Scena Quarta.

Enter Regan, and Steward.

Reg. But are my Brothers Powres set forth?
Stew. I Madam,
Reg. Himselfe in person there?
Stew. Madam with much ado:
Your Sister is the better Souldier.
Reg. Lord Edmund spake not with your Lord at home?
Stew. No Madam.
Reg. What might import my Sisters Letter to him?
Stew. I know not, Lady.
Reg. Faith he is poastd hence on serious matter:
It was great ignorance, Glousters eyes being out
To let him liue. Where he arrives, he moues
All hearts against vs: Edmund, I thinke is gone
In pity of his misery, to dispatch
His nighted life: Morcouer to desery
The strength o' th' Enemy.
Stew. I must needs after him, Madam, with my Letter.
Reg. Our troopes set forth to morrow, stay with vs:
The wayes are dangerous.
Stew. I may not Madam:
My Lady charg'd my dutie in this busines.
Reg. Why should she write to Edmund?
Might not you transport her purposes by word? Belike,
Some things, I know not what: He loue thee much
Let me vnicale the Letter.
Stew. Madam, I had rather
Reg. I know your Lady do's not loue her Husband,
I am sure of that: and at her late being heere,
She gaue strange Eliads, and most speaking looks
To Noble Edmund. I know you are of her bosome.
Stew. I, Madam?

Reg. I speake in vnderstanding: Yare: I know't,
Therefore I do aduise you take this note:
My Lord is dead: Edmund, and I haue talk'd,
And more conuenient is he for my hand
Then for your Ladies: You may gather more:
If you do finde him, pray you giue him this;
And when your Mistris heares thus much from you,
I pray desire her call her wisdom to her,
So fare you well:
If you do chance to heare of that blinde Traitor,
Preferment fals on him, that cuts him off.
Stew. Would I could meet Madam, I should shew
What party I do follow.
Reg. Fare thee well.

Exeunt.

Scena Quinta.

Enter Gloucester, and Edgar.

Glou. When shall I come to th' top of that same hill?
Edg. You do climbe vp it now. Look how we labor.
Glou. Me thinkes the ground is euen.
Edg. Horrible stepe.
Glou. Hearke, do you heare the Sea?
Glou. No truly.
Edg. Why then your other Senses grow imperfect
By your eyes anguith.
Glou. So may it be indeed.
Me thinkes thy voyce is alter'd, and thou speak'st
In better phrase, and matter then thou did'st.
Edg. Yare much deceiu'd: Is nothing am I chang'd
But in my Garments.
Glou. Me thinkes yare better spoken.
Edg. Come on Sir,
Heere's the place: stand still: how fearefull
And dizie 'tis, to cast ones eyes so low,
The Crowes and Choughes, that wing the midway ayre
Shew scarce so grosse as Beetles. Halfe way downe
Hangs one that gathers Sampire: dreadfull Trade:
Me thinkes he seemes no bigger then his head.
The Fishermen, that walk'd vpon the beach
Appare like Mice: and yond tall Anchoring Barke,
Diminish'd to her Cocke: her Cocke, a Buoy
Almost too small for sight. The murmuring Surge,
That on th' vnnumbred idle Pebble chafes
Cannot be heard so high. He looke no more,
Least may braine turne, and the deficient sight
Topple downe headlong.
Glou. Set me where you stand.
Edg. Giue me your hand:
You are now within a foote of th' extreme Verge:
For all beneath the Moone would I not leape vp right.
Glou. Let go my hand:
Heere Friend's another purse: in it, a Jewell
Well worth a poore mans taking. Fayries, and Gods
Prosper it with thee. Go thou further off,
Bid me farewell, and let me heare thee going.
Edg. Now fare ye well, good Sir.
Glou. With all my heart.
Edg. Why I do trifle thus with his dispaire,
Is done to cure it.
Glou. O you mighty Gods!
This world I do renounce, and in your sight

Shake

Shake patiently my great affliction off:
If I could beare it longer, and not fall:
To quarrell with your great oppossefles willes,
My snuffe, and loathed part of Nature should
Burne it selfe out. If Edgar liue, O blesse him:
Now Fellow, fare thee well.
Edg. Gone Sir, farewell:
And yet I know not how conceit may rob
The Treasury of life, when life it selfe
Yeelds to the Theft. Had he bin where he thought,
By this had thought bin past. Alieue, or dead?
Hoe, you Sir: Friend, heare you Sir, speake:
Thus might he passe indeed: yet he reuiues.
What are you Sir?

Glou. Away, and let me dye.
Edg. Had'st thou bene ought
But Gozemore, Feathers, Ayre,
(So many fathome downe precipitating)
Thou'dst shiner'd like an Egge: but thou do'st breath:
Hast heavy substance, bleed'st not, speak'st, art sound,
Ten Malts at each, make not the altitude
Which thou hast perpendicularly fell,
Thy life's a Myracle. Speake yet againe.

Glou. But haue I false, or no?
Edg. From the dread Summit of this Chalkie Bourne
Looke vp a height, the shrill-gorg'd Larke so farre
Cannot be seene, or heard: Do but looke vp.
Glou. Alacke, I haue no eyes:
Is wretchednesse depri'd that benefit
To end it selfe by death? 'Twas yet some comfort,
When misery could beguile the Tyrants rage,
And frustrate his proud will.

Edg. Giue me your arme.
Vp, so: How is't? Feele you your Legges? You stand,
Glou. Too well, too well.
Edg. This is about all strangeness,
Vpon the crowne o' th' Cliff. What thing was that
Which parted from you?

Glou. A poore vnfortunate Beggar.
Edg. As I stood heere below, me thought his eyes
Were two full Moones: he had a thousand Noses,
Hornes wealk'd, and waued like the enraged Sea:
It was some Fiend: Therefore thou happy Father,
Thinke that the cleereft Gods, who make them Honors
Of mens Impossibilities, haue preferred thee.
Glou. I do remember now: henceforth He beare
Affliction, till it do cry out it selfe
Enough, enough, and dye. That thing you speake of,
I tooke it for a man: often 'twould say
The Fiend, the Fiend, he led me to that place.
Edg. Beare free and patient thoughts.

Enter Lear.

But who comes heere?
The safer sense will ne're accomodate
His Master thus.
Lear. No, they cannot touch me for crying. I am the
King himselfe.
Edg. O thou side-piercing sight!
Lear. Nature's about Art, in that respect. Ther's your
Prestie-money. That fellow handles his bow, like a Crow-
keeper: draw mee a Cloathiers yard. Look, looke, a
Moule: peace, peace, this peece of toasted Cheefe will
doo't. There's my Gaunter, Ile proue it on a Gyant.
Bring vp the browne Billes: O well flowne Bird: i'th
clout, i'th clout: Hewgh. Giue the word.
Edg. Sweet Mariorum.

Lear. Passe.

Glou. I know that voyce.

Lear. Ha! Conerill with a white beard? They flatter'd
me like a Dogge, and told mee I had the white hayres in
my Beard, ere the blacke ones were there. To say I, and
no, to euery thing that I said: I, and no too, was no good
Diuinity. When the raine came to wet me once, and the
winde to make me chatter: when the Thunder would not
peace at my bidding, there I found 'em, there I finelt 'em
out. Go too, they are not men o' their words; they told
me, I was euery thing: 'Tis a Lye, I am not Agu-prooffe.

Glou. The trickes of that voyce, I do well remember:
Is't not the King?

Lear. I, euery inch a King.
When I do itare, see how the Subiect quakes.
I pardon that mans life. What was thy cause?
Adultery? thou shalt not dye: dye for Adultery?
No, the Wren goes too't, and the small gilded Fly
Do's letcher in my sight. Let Copulation thrine:
For Glousters bastard Son was kinder to his Father,
Then my Daughters got'tweene the lawfull sheets.
Too't Luxury pell-mell, for I lacke Souldiers.
Behold yond sumpring Dame, whose face betweene her
Forkes prefages Snow; that minces Vertue, & do's shake
the head to heare of pleasures name. The Fitchew, nor
the soyled Horse goes too't with a more riotous appe-
tite: Downe from the waste they are Centaures, though
Women all about: but to the Girdle do the Gods inher-
it, beneath is all the Fiends. There's hell, there's darkne-
nes, there is the sulphurous pit; burning, scalding, stench,
consumption: Fye, sic, fie; pah, pah: Giue me an Ounce
of Ciuet; good Apothecary sweeten my imagination:
There's money for thee.

Glou. O let me kisse that hand.

Lear. Let me wipe it first,

It smells of Mortality.

Glou. O ruin'd peece of Nature, this great world!
Shall we weare our to naught.
Do'st thou know me?

Lear. I remember thine eyes well enough: dost thou
squiny at me? No, doe thy worst blinde Cupid, Ile not
loue. Reade thou this challenge, marke but the penning
of it.

Glou. Were all thy Letters Sunnes, I could not see.

Edg. I would not take this from report,

It is, and my heart breakes at it.

Lear. Read.

Glou. What with the Case of eyes?

Lear. Oh ho, are you there with me? No eies in your
head, nor no money in your purse? Your eyes are in a hea-
uy case, your purse in a light, yet you see how this world
goes.

Glou. I see it feelingly.

Lear. What, art mad? A man may see how this world
goes, with no eyes. Look with thine eares: See how
yond Iustice railes vpon yond simple theefe. Hearke in
rhine eare: Change places, and handy-dandy, which is
the Iustice, which is the theefe: Thou hast seene a Far-
mers dogge barke at a Beggar?

Glou. I Sir.

Lear. And the Creature run from the Cur: there thou
might'st behold the great image of Authoritie, a Dogg's
obey'd in Office. Thou, Rascall Beadie, hold thy bloody
hand: why dost thou lash that Whore? Strip thy owne
backe, thou hotly lusts to vse her in that kind, for which
thou whip'st her. The Vsurer hangs the Cozener, Tho-
rough